

Message

From: Ross, Mary [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=98359CD1F66F46EC91D327E99A3C6909-ROSS, MARY]
Sent: 7/25/2016 11:40:21 PM
To: ORD-NCEA [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=9fd27be854b0475e8c7da44e626886aa-ORD-NCEA]
Subject: FW: ORD/OSA Weekly

FYI -

From: Blackburn, Elizabeth
Sent: Sunday, July 24, 2016 11:30 AM
To: ORD-IOAA-Front Office Support <ORDIOAASUPPORT@epa.gov>; ORD-Exec-Council-Directors <Execcouncildirectors@epa.gov>; Maguire, Megan <Maguire.Megan@epa.gov>; Matthews, Lisa <Matthews.Lisa@epa.gov>; Maloney, Kelsey <Maloney.Kelsey@epa.gov>; Zambrana, Jose <Zambrana.Jose@epa.gov>; Benforado, Jay <Benforado.Jay@epa.gov>; Gibbons, Dayna <Gibbons.Dayna@epa.gov>; ORD-Mgmt-Council <ORDMgmtCouncil@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: ORD/OSA Weekly

All

Please see Tom's note to the Administrator below.

Liz

Liz Blackburn
Chief of Staff
EPA Office of Research and Development
202-564-2192
Cell Personal Matters / Ex. 6

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Burke, Thomas" <Burke.Thomas@epa.gov>
Date: July 24, 2016 at 10:19:23 AM EDT
To: "Adm13McCarthy, Gina" <Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov>, "Meiburg, Stan" <Meiburg.Stan@epa.gov>, "Fritz, Matthew" <Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov>, "Benenati, Frank" <benenati.frank@epa.gov>, "Garbow, Avi" <Garbow.Avi@epa.gov>, "Distefano, Nichole" <DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov>, "Vaught, Laura" <Vaught.Laura@epa.gov>, "McCabe, Janet" <McCabe.Janet@epa.gov>, "Beauvais, Joel" <Beauvais.Joel@epa.gov>, "Rupp, Mark" <Rupp.Mark@epa.gov>, "Ragland, Micah" <Ragland.Micah@epa.gov>, "Pieh, Luseni" <Pieh.Luseni@epa.gov>, "Flynn, Mike" <Flynn.Mike@epa.gov>, "Jones, Jim" <Jones.Jim@epa.gov>
Cc: "Hubbard, Carolyn" <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>, "Blackburn, Elizabeth" <Blackburn.Elizabeth@epa.gov>, "Kavlock, Robert" <Kavlock.Robert@epa.gov>, "Kadeli, Lek" <Kadeli.Lek@epa.gov>, "Deener, Kathleen" <Deener.Kathleen@epa.gov>, "Corona, Elizabeth" <Corona.Elizabeth@epa.gov>, "Kim, Hyon" <Kim.Hyon@epa.gov>
Subject: ORD/OSA Weekly

Administrator,

Last week I met with ORD senior leaders in RTP where we tackled a variety of topics including building new capabilities in public health, social sciences, and drinking water research; ensuring strong science for the Agency during the upcoming transition; next steps on inclusion and diversity including exploring training on unconscious bias; and discussions around priority setting when confronted with emergency situations. We also had a nice retirement tribute for Dr. Ken Olden and a great town hall with the ORD/RTP team. An amazing group of talented dedicated folks.

The week prior I visited our Mid-Continent Ecology Division Lab in Duluth for a meeting with the ECOS Environmental Research Institute of the States Board. We discussed states' research needs and problems to help inform our research planning, develop collaborative pilots under the new MOA with ECOS and ASTHO. It was helpful to have leaders from CDC/ATSDR, Region 3, and program office colleagues participate in the meeting and share their perspectives – building those public health bridges. Unfortunately, last Thursday Duluth was hit with very severe storms with high winds resulting in downed trees, impassable roads, and massive power outages. According to Dale Hoff our lab director, our folks are safe and resilient.

Next week I look forward to continuing conversations within ORD about advancing risk assessment to better address the needs of the Agency. We are also continuing to move ahead with our efforts to support OW and the Lead and Copper Rule.

On the public health side, I am looking forward to meeting with David Dyjack, the Executive Director of the National Environmental Health Association, to discuss ways to work together.

Tire Crumb

OMB has completed its review of the Synthetic Turf Emergency ICR package, and the official approval is expected very soon. The next steps will be to obtain final approval from CDC's Institutional Review Board and EPA's Human Subjects Review Official. Implementation of the research will begin immediately thereafter.

EPA Subway Cleanup Operational Demonstration

EPA and DHS continue to collaborate on the Underground Transport Restoration program, a multi-year DHS-sponsored program focused on developing capabilities to enhance the rapid return to service of underground transport systems after a biological incident. EPA is leading the Operational Technology Demonstration that will demonstrate decontamination methods for the subway station and tunnel environments scheduled for September 12 – October 15. A project meeting will take place July 26-27 followed by a readiness review meeting on July 28. The meetings bring together the program sponsors, stakeholders, and research performers to discuss project status and future planning activities.

GAO Tox 21 Visit

On July 25 ORD will host GAO staff at NIH's National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences. This visit is a follow-up to a previous presentation on applications of data from high-throughput screening technologies for assessing safety in sustainable chemistry. The visit will include a tour of the NCATS robotics facility as well as a discussion of related research in Tox21

Senator James Lankford to Visit ORD Ada, OK, Laboratory

The Senator (R-OK) is planning to visit the Robert S. Kerr Environmental Research Center the morning of July 26. He has requested an overview and tour of the facility, as well as an all hands meeting with staff.

Technical Support to Region 4 on Florida Algal Blooms

In response to a request from Region 4 and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, ORD is reviewing proposed vendor technologies for Harmful Algal Bloom mitigation in the St. Lucie River and Estuary in southeast Florida. The objective is to remove or reduce the severity of the harmful algal bloom biomass impacting human and ecological health for the river, canals, estuary, and surrounding areas.

Visitors from China

EPA-RTP is hosting a group of engineers from China on July 28th from the Power China Huadong Engineering Corporation as part of a training program at Duke University. They are interested in topics such as international business development, managing environmental projects, and interacting with practitioners to understand real world case studies and issues. EPA will provide presentations on energy systems, air quality regulations, and cook stove research, and a tour of EPA-RTP campus areas of interest such as the solar panel array and dynamometer research.

Last Week

White House Champions of Change Meeting

On July 15 ORD's Valerie Zartarian and Emily Eisenhauer attended an event in honor of the White House Champions of Change for Climate Equity, organized by the Council on Environmental Quality. As EPA co-chair of the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice Climate Impacts Subcommittee, Zartarian presented along with HUD at the Champions' luncheon. Associate Assistant Administrator for Environmental Justice Mustafa Ali also attended and moderated a panel discussion honoring the Climate Equity Champions. Michael Durglo, a Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe elder and R8 tribal representative to the EPA Tribal Science Council was honored as a White House Champion of Change for Climate Equity.

Workshop on Final Ecosystem Goods and Services

ORD scientists held a workshop next week in Portland, OR highlighting the application of methods to identify metrics and indicators of final ecosystem goods and services for use at national and regional scales. Ecosystem services flow from nature to humans and the economy and do not involve an exchange of money. Developing metrics and indicators and accurately quantifying their value has been a top priority for ORD. The workshop is especially notable for its responsiveness to a 2015 White House directive for all agencies to promote consideration of ecosystem services in Federal actions.

ORD Participates in Boat Tour in Making a Visible Difference Community, Lawrence, MA

ORD's Valerie Zartarian and Michael Jahne had the pleasure of joining Stan Meiburg, Region 1 and Mayor Rivera of Lawrence on a tour of the Merrimack River last week. ORD was able to gather information from the boathouse manager that will inform part of our contribution to the Lawrence Making a Visible Difference project. As one component to inform the City's comprehensive water strategy, we are modeling potential health risks in the community due to recreational river use; this component connects to the real-time water quality monitoring effort and the ORD-led Lawrence water treatment plant climate resiliency plan.

Arctic Council Task Force Reaches Consensus on Agreement on Scientific Cooperation

ORD represented EPA in the U.S. delegation at the recent Arctic Council Task Force meeting where the Task Force reached consensus on a draft legally binding agreement. The goals of the agreement are to improve scientists' access to infrastructure and facilities, access to Arctic research locations, access to Arctic data, cooperation in scientific activities, and it encourages the sharing and use of Traditional Ecological Knowledge. The agreement is expected to be announced at the White House Arctic Science Ministerial Meeting in September 2016 and signed by the Arctic ministers in May 2017.

Publications

Possible New Type of Endocrine-Active Chemical

Triclocarban is an antimicrobial agent routinely detected in surface waters that has been hypothesized to interact with the vertebrate endocrine system. The study examined the effects of Triclocarban alone and in combination with the model endocrine disruptor 17 β -trenbolone on fish reproductive function. The authors concluded that there is little need to view Triclocarban as a new type of endocrine active chemical, but that its effect concentrations as chronic toxicant are quite close to environmentally relevant exposure concentrations and likely pose a significant risk to aquatic organisms, particularly in areas near known Triclocarban sources, such as waste water treatment plant discharges.

Paper Published in Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology

The paper, "Systematically evaluating read-across prediction and performance using a local validity approach characterized by chemical structure and bioactivity information," was published in Regulatory Toxicology. The paper describes an approach for using ToxCast bioactivity data and chemical structure information to predict toxicity for chemicals with similar structures.

Grantee Publication

STAR grantee Bart Nijssen (University of Washington) published an article, Climate and land cover effects on the temperature of Puget Sound streams, in the Hydrological Processes. Researchers examined the response of the temperature of the major streams draining to Puget Sound to land cover and climate change. Land Cover changes effect streamflow, however the effect of riparian vegetation shading changes on stream temperature is much greater than land cover change, especially in summer low flow periods. Climate projections predict that precipitation will have a modest effect on stream temperature compared to the substantial increases in stream temperature due to projected air temperature increases. Researchers conclude that restoration of riparian vegetation could mitigate much of the projected summer stream temperature increases.